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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

for

THE YEAR 1944

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

My report will again be confined to the barest essentials.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There have been no changes of note under this heading- There are still a few evacuees in the area, but these numbers have been so small as to constitute no separate problems. One of the most pressing problems in this area, as I expect in most other areas, is the provision of accomodation for the aged and infirm. At present there is no half-way house between the Public Assistance Institutions and expensive Nursing Homes. Many of the aged persons, who have deserved well of the community, have no one to look after them in their old age, or, if they have relatives, the latter find it impossible or inconvenient to provide for them, with the result that, at best, they are a burden to their relatives and feel their position accutely.

The provision of suitable Homes, where these people could be looked after at a very modest cost to themselves is to my mind one of the most urgent of the post-war health schemes.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres	721.
Inhabited Houses, (End of 1944).	1,113.
Rateable Value.	£17,936.
Product of one penny rate.	£67- 5- 6.

Vital Statistics.

Population (estimated) . . . . . 3,564.

		M.	F.	Total.	
Live Births.	Legitimate	40	37	77	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population 23.8
	Illegitimate.	5	3	8	
Still Births.		--	2	2	Rate per 1,000 births 23.5
Deaths.		19	29	48	Death-rate per 1,000 13.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. . . . . nil.
2. Other causes. . . . . nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Legitimate. . 3.
Illegitimate. . 3.
Total 6.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 70.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages). . . . . 4.

. . . . . Measles (all ages) . . . . . nil.

. . . . . Whooping Cough (all ages). . . . . nil.

. . . . . Diarrhoea (under 2 years). . . . . 1.

These statistics have their good and not so good features. It is again satisfactory to note that our birth-rate keeps well above the average, but against this is the disappointing figure for Infant Mortality rate. This might come as an unpleasant surprise to the casual observer in view of all the increased attention paid to Infant Welfare in these days. In point of fact nearly all these deaths were due to congenital defects, and were therefore unavoidable, at any rate in the present state of our knowledge - Perhaps war-time conditions may have some effect on pre-natal life in some of these cases - we cannot say.

Another satisfaction is the absence of any deaths from puerperal causes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blamey,M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (part time also District M.O. under P.A Authority and Public Vaccinator)

Sanitary Inspector. E.St.L.Whitford M.R.S.I., A.I.S.E for the first part of the year when he was succeeded by J.A.Yates. in March 1945

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate - Joint Board.
2. Meat & Food Inspector's Certificate. (Royal Sanitary Institute)
3. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, (Royal Sanitary Institute).
4. "Testamur", of Institution of Municipal & County Engineers.

During the year the work of the Health Visitor has again proved very valuable, especially in connection with the supervision of the health of the children in the Borough, both by visits to the homes and attendance at Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinics. In this way any defects noted are brought to the attention of the parents, or the appropriate doctor or the Health Authorities.

Rats & Mice Destruction.

An initial Survey was carried out, at the instigation of the Ministry of Food. So far a Rat-catcher has not been appointed.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. Supplies have continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality. I receive the analyst's reports regularly but do not propose to publish them. They have been invariably good. I think however, that a few samples should be taken annually by the undertakers from the supply actually in Penryn.

Drainage and Sewerage. Two sea outfalls are in use. One is fairly satisfactory, but the one at College is apt to require periodic attention to prevent chokage and consequent fouling of tidal waters in the body of the town. Improvement to this outfall is overdue.

Closet, ablutionary and home laundering accomodation. There is still urgent need of improvement in the closet accomodation to certain houses. Every house, or part occupied by a separate family, should have its own separate water-closet (i.e. one complete with automatically filling water flushing apparatus), water supply in the house, kitchen sink and bathroom.

Adequate clothes washing and drying facilities should be available also. I hope that after the cessation of hostilities the provision of these facilities will not be long delayed.

Rivers and Streams. The practise of throwing refuse into streams has not decreased, but it is hoped that the removal of blitz material, and better facilities for storage and removal of house refuse, (it has proved impossible to obtain an adequate supply of new ash cans) plus improved facilities for extending Sanitary Inspection will effect a great improvement.

Shops, Offices, Camping Sites, etc. These have been inspected as much as possible, and I have received no adverse reports.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report the Inspector concerned is not available, having taken another appointment, and the almost entire absence of records makes it impossible to say whether or not the inspections have been carried out regularly.

Bed-bugs. Here again no records are available and I must emphasise the need for vigorous and effective action in combating occurrences of these pests.

Housing & House Repairs. During the previous year several informal letters, to persons having the control of houses occupied by the working classes, were sent by the Sanitary Inspector. No complete record has been found of the inspections and re-inspections carried out during the year under review and it is therefore not possible to judge how far the notices have been complied with or "Followed Up".

During the year I reported to you, myself regarding the unsatisfactory condition of certain houses. I must point out that, although the informal letter type of notice is not without value, a more vigorous policy, designed to take full advantage of the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts should be persued at the earliest possible moment. To do this adequate and competent staff must be available.

Further repairs to property damaged by enemy action are now in hand, aided by Certificates of Essentiality.

The Council has also been very actively engaged on plans for erecting a considerable number of houses after the war.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. The water supply to the Co-Operative Creamery is still obtained from an open stream, and I maintain the opinion that water though it is chlorinated and very carefully tested, used at this factory should come from the mains, when this proves practicable.

Sale of Milk under Special Designations. A Pasteuriser's Licence held by the proprietors of the above Creamery should be reviewed annually, bearing in mind bacteriological reports on the condition of such milk after processing, at any time before delivery to the consumer.

INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS. A general re-inspection of the dozen cowsheds in the Borough was made during the year, but here again records are sketchy, for instance the dates of inspections are not ascertainable. So far as I am aware no improvements have been carried out, although better water supply and drainage is wanted in certain cases.

PURITY OF FOOD & DRUGS.

Food & Drugs Act sampling in the Borough is done by another Authority so that I cannot report on the same. Allowing 3 samples per 1,000 population about a dozen samples should be taken in Penryn annually.

UNFIT FOOD.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector certified the following articles as being unfit for food. All were surrendered by the Trader or returned through trade channels if required by instruction from the Ministry of Food.

Condensed Milk.	(Full Cream)	4 tins	of $1\frac{3}{4}$ pints	(Equivalent)
Pork Luncheon Meat.	(Tins)	6 "	" 32	ozs each.
Pilchards	"	20 "	" 15	ozs each.

All were due to decomposition of the contents or damage to the tins. There are no further records of inspections in shops, food premises and bakehouses.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Pneumonia.	8.
Measles.	7.
Whooping Cough	3.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Erysipelas	1.

I have no particular comments to make about these cases, who were all nursed at home.

Of non-notifiable diseases Influenza was again on a very small scale, but there was quite an epidemic of Gastro-enteritis, mostly of a mild type and of unknown aetiology.

On the whole, considering this was the 5th: year of War, the health of the community was reasonably good.

Immunization against Diphtheria has continued to be satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 4 new cases notified :-

3 cases were Pulmonary viz :- 1 Male aged 62.
2 Females aged 32 and 18 respectively.

The non-pulmonary case was a Female aged 18.

There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis :-

2 females aged 19 and 27

1 female aged 63.

There is urgent need for more Sanatorium accomodation for pulmonary Tuberculosis. Such good results are obtained these days in early cases by modern methods of treatment that it is of vital importance that these cases should be able to be admitted as soon as possible.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLAMEY.

May 1945.